

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended): A vehicle steering system comprising an intermediate shaft system including:

an input shaft for transmitting a rotation from a steering wheel operated by a driver;

an intermediate shaft including an upper intermediate shaft, a lower intermediate shaft and a connecting device for connecting the upper intermediate shaft to the lower intermediate shaft in such a manner as to enable each to slide in the axial direction thereof and to transmit a rotation therebetween;

an output shaft for driving a steering mechanism on a vehicle; and

universal joints which provide connections, respectively, between the input shaft and the upper intermediate shaft and between the lower intermediate shaft and the output shaft,

characterized in that at least either of the universal joints is a constant velocity universal joint;

wherein one of the universal joints is the constant velocity universal joint, and the other of the universal joints is a cross universal joint, and

wherein the cross universal joint is provided between the input shaft and the upper intermediate shaft, and the constant velocity universal joint is provided between the lower intermediate shaft and the output shaft.

7. (withdrawn): A vehicle steering system as set forth in Claim 6, characterized in that the universal joints are both constant velocity universal joints.

8. (currently amended): A vehicle steering system as set forth in Claim 6-5, characterized in that the constant velocity universal joint is a joints-are constant velocity ball universal joint~~joints~~.

9. (withdrawn- currently amended): A vehicle steering system as set forth in Claim 6-5, characterized in that the connecting device is a spline connecting device or a serration connecting device, and

a film of polyamide resin is formed on a surface of a connecting portion on at least either a male side or a female side of the spline connecting device or the serration connecting device.

10. (withdrawn-currently amended): A vehicle steering system as set forth in Claim 6-5, characterized in that the connecting device is a serration connecting device, and

a biasing member is provided between the male side and the female side of the serration connecting device for applying a biasing force in a direction perpendicular to an axis thereof.

11. (withdrawn- currently amended): A vehicle steering system as set forth in Claim 6-5,
characterized in that the connecting device is a spline connecting device, and in that
the height of at least a tooth of the spline connecting device is made lower than the height
of the other teeth.

12.- 14. (canceled).